

Message Text

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44

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04

SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 /089 R

DRAFTED BY L/EUR:KSGUDGEON:EMB

APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:JHROUSE

EUR/CAN:LJANOWSKI

OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN(INFO)

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O R 291835Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS STATE 231309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: POPLAR RIVER

REFS: STATE 228055; OTTAWA 7621

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO MAKE TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER FROM VINE TO BULLARD (IJC) AVAILABLE TO JANOWSKI FOR TRANSMITTAL TO HENRY SMITH. ADVANCE COPY SHOULD BE PROVIDED EXTAFF. SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL BE SENT TO IJC WASHINGTON OFFICE DATED 30 SEPT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. BULLARD:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES APPRECIATES THE INITIATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION IN AD-
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DRESSING THE CONCERNS WHICH EXIST REGARDING THE POTENTIAL

TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION'S MINING AND POWER GENERATION PROJECT ON THE EAST POPLAR RIVER NEAR CORONACH, SASKATCHEWAN. IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE TIMELY RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOURIS-RED RIVERS ENGINEERING BOARD IN ITS MARCH 26 LETTER TO THE COMMISSION THAT IT BE INSTRUCTED TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE POPLAR RIVER BASIN

WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS ON AN EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT OF THE FLOWS OF THE POPLAR RIVER SYSTEM, AND THE COMMISSION'S DECISION AT ITS APRIL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING TO SO DIRECT THE BOARD.

3. IN THIS REGARD, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO THE REFERENCE OF JANUARY 12, 1948, AND IN PARTICULAR, NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 THEREOF, TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO IDENTIFY EXISTING AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE POPLAR SYSTEM AND TO RECOMMEND AN EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT WHICH WILL SECURE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. AS THE COMMISSION NO DOUBT APPRECIATES, PRODUCTION OF A REPORT BY EARLY 1976 WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ENSURING THAT INTERESTS ON THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE EAST POPLAR ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, IN LIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN'S PLAN TO IMPOUND WATERS BEGINNING WITH THE SPRING 1976 RUN-OFF.

4. THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE HELD TWO MEETINGS INVOLVING FEDERAL, STATE AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS PROJECT WHICH HAVE FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON THE PROTECTION OF AIR QUALITY. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT THESE DISCUSSIONS. AN AGREED SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 26 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HELENA, MONTANA HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION. A MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6 IN OTTAWA TO FURTHER CONSIDER THIS ASPECT, AND GOVERNMENTS WILL KEEP THE COMMISSION INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. THE GOVERNMENTS UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL AIR POLLUTION ADVISORY BOARD HAS REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION ON THE POPLAR RIVER

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PROJECT'S POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY. THIS REPORT WILL BE HELPFUL TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE COURSE OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

5. AT THE COMMISSION'S MEETING LAST APRIL, THE COMMISSION AND COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENTS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FURTHER INVOLVEMENT BY THE COMMISSION IN THE AIR AND WATER QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE POWER CORPORATION'S PROJECT. IN LIGHT

OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, THE GOVERNMENTS WISH TO
RESERVE FOR THE PRESENT THE QUESTION OF A NEW REFERENCE TO
THE COMMISSION ON THESE MATTERS. END TEXT INGERSOLL

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